



Position Statement

HB 4538 – Diversion of Water Pollution Funds

Sierra Club urges legislators to vote NO on HB 4538, a bill that would divert money from the State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund.

Votes pertaining to this bill will be included in the Sierra Club's legislative scorecard.

Issue Background

Funding critical upgrades for sanitary sewers, storm sewers and other water related infrastructure is a challenge for any local unit of government. In Michigan, a State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund - which was established under the Great Lakes Water Quality Bonds passed by voters in 2002 - has provided cities an on-going way to borrow the funds they need for these expensive investments, with the payments going to help other communities in the future.

The State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund allows communities that are required to fix up their water and sewer systems, including paying for the separation of combined sewer overflow systems, to obtain reasonable financing costs and develop solutions to water pollution problems. Increasingly communities are using these funds to help increase green infrastructure that helps prevent flooding and provides water cleaning, helping prevent sickness and protect property downstream.

HB 4538 creates a dangerous precedent by proposing to divert funds in the State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund to pay for Delinquent Special Assessment Revolving Loan Fund. The diversion of the limited funds available to fix and upgrade Michigan's water infrastructure to any other use will delay projects and penalize communities that are in need of these funds. Money slated to help establish safe water infrastructure should not be used for anything else.

The Legislature should not set a precedent allowing the diversion of money out of its intended uses under the Great Lakes Water Quality Bonds. Sierra Club urges you to vote NO on HB 4538.

*Please contact the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter office at (517) 484-2372 for more information.
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